

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and commend their staff for their tremendous efforts to protect the pristine land and promote the historic heritage of southern Maryland. As a result of their work with real estate, law and finance experts, business interests, and citizens' groups, we have been able, over the past several years, to conserve natural, historic, and environmental landmarks at Piscataway Park and Myrtle Point.

The motto of the Trust for Public Land is the inspiration which guides the organization. "Conserving land for people", is often a very complex, costly, and timely task. However, the TPL has shown that with the right combination of leadership, energy, and commitment, permanent conservation and preservation can be a reality.

Mr. Speaker, in 1793, George Washington wrote of his boyhood home Mount Vernon that "no estate in the United America is more pleasantly situated than this." Dating back to 1955, there have been significant threats to the 18th century scenery which serves as a viewshed across the river in Maryland. For the past several years, I have enjoyed working with the Trust for Public Land to ensure that today a functioning colonial farm, which serves as the perfect backdrop for Mount Vernon, runs along the Potomac River on the Maryland side.

Recently, the Trust for Public Land played an integral role in the effort to save the last undeveloped waterfront property in St. Marys County: Myrtle Point. Due to the services provided by the Trust for Public Land, this 192-acre Patuxent River parcel will be managed as a natural area and public recreational park with waterfront access. They negotiated the agreement between St. Marys County, the State of Maryland, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. for more than 1½ years. In fact, without the leadership and vision of the staff of the Trust for Public Land, this deal might never have come together.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few examples of the productive role the Trust for Public Land has played in ensuring the protection of our Nation's pristine environment and open space. Since its founding in 1972, the Trust for Public Land has protected close to 1 million acres of land valued at over \$1 billion in 44 States and Canada, including 2,000 acres in Maryland.

They have successfully brought together government and private interests in the name of conservation and are to be commended for their efforts and success. I know that my colleagues join me in recognizing their dedication and congratulate them on their many accomplishments.

A REDEDICATION TO CIVIL RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Black History month 1997 it is important to recognize what black Americans have accomplished and to rededicate ourselves to future progress. As a Member of Congress who has devoted his life to the struggle for civil rights, I am deeply troubled by the state of race relations in America. Over the last decade legislative and legal challenges have led to the deterioration of monumental civil rights initiatives. Today, the civil rights achievements of a generation of courageous men and women lie in jeopardy.

Racial and gender-based discrimination is a serious national problem. Recently it has become popular to vilify civil rights initiatives as unfair and ineffective. Opponents make the austere assertion these initiatives tilt the playing field to favor women and minorities yet they offer no substantial proof to support this notion. They try to persuade the public to believe we now live in a colorblind society and no longer need the restraint of law to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of women and minorities. They diligently argue this point while black churches smoulder throughout the country. Their message resonates in conservative circles even as institutional discriminatory employment practices like those at Texaco, Avis, and the Department of Agriculture are regularly disclosed. The opponents of civil rights laws discount their value to society even as we see mounting evidence that our own Government was actively involved or passively ignored the introduction of crack cocaine to poor inner city communities. And, sadly, civil rights opponents have attacked the boundaries of minority congressional districts while enacting racist initiatives like California's prop 209.

Programs like affirmative action, voting rights, race-based scholarships, and minority set asides were put into effect as a remedy to overt race and sex discrimination. Affirmative action has been defined as "any measure, beyond simple termination of a discriminatory practice, adopted to correct or compensate for past or present discrimination or to prevent discrimination from recurring in the future."—U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Statement on Affirmative Action, October 1977. It does not force employers to meet defined quotas or hire unqualified applicants. However, it did force society to open the doors of opportunity to individuals who were previously precluded from participating fully in our society. Without these programs to prohibit racist and sexist behavior, people would be free to practice the socially destructive behaviors that inhibit our success and progress.

It is irresponsible for Members of this body to embrace the notion we no longer need laws

to prevent and protect women and minorities against discrimination. This body must work diligently to contain the disease of hate and prejudice which is eroding the very fabric of our Nation. The race problem in America threatens the two things that make us the most productive country in the industrialized world; diversity and opportunity. Mr. Speaker, Members should resist the temptation to participate in racially divisive politics. We as Members of the United States Congress need to do what is morally right, not what is politically advantageous. To dismantle our civil rights laws is to knock on the door of disaster. We cannot fan the flames of fear without getting burned. We must extinguish the fire. It is our responsibility to remain steadfast as the vanguards of justice and equality. We must not betray our responsibility to nurture and heal the deep divisions that prohibit us from realizing our true greatness.

HONORING MARVIN RUNYON

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I speak today in honor of Marvin Runyon—a good friend, a great constituent, and an honorable leader. Many Americans recognize Mr. Runyon as the Postmaster General of the United States. However, he has also enjoyed a distinguished career in the corporate world and as a public servant.

I first met him when he was President and CEO of Nissan America. At the time, he had chosen Smyrna, TN, as the site to build Nissan's manufacturing plant from the ground up. After great successes at Nissan, he was selected by former President Ronald Reagan to become chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Following his chairmanship, the Postal Service's Board of Governors asked Mr. Runyon to become our Nation's 70th Postmaster General.

My esteemed constituent oversees a \$56 billion Federal agency, employing 760,000 individuals and bearing 40,000 post offices nationwide. Under Mr. Runyon's watch, the U.S. Postal Service earned a \$1.6 billion in 1996. In addition, overnight service performance has improved in recent years from 82 to 91 percent.

Mr. Runyon has come under criticism in past months over some stock holdings. However, I hope that these allegations do not overshadow the diligence, competence, and honor of a man who has spent his career serving others. While others must judge the ethics of Mr. Runyon's investments, I am pleased to submit two articles that tell his side of the story. I ask that these articles be submitted for the RECORD.

[From Industry Week, Feb. 3, 1997]

MARVIN RUNYON DELIVERS A TURNAROUND
(By William H. Miller)

When most top-level CEOs reach the retirement years, they're only too glad to swap

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